

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 008727

R 021505Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9509

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: CALL BY AMBASSADOR ON GENERAL SPINOLA

REF: LISBON 1704

1. AT NOON TODAY I CALLED ON GENERAL SPINOLA. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM AND DATT, HAVING ASCERTAINED IN ADVANCE THAT THEIR PRESENCE WOULD BE WELCOME. GENERAL WAS ALONE THROUGHOUT EXCEPT FOR JOSE BLANCO, FORMER AIDE TO SPINOLA IN GUINEA WHO NOW APPARENTLY OCCUPYING SIMILAR ROLE. I SPOKE FRENCH WHICH HE OBVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD BUT HE REPLIED IN PORTUGUESE WHICH BLANCO TRANSLATED BACK INTO FRENCH, WITH THE GENERAL OBVIOUSLY LISTENING CAREFULLY TO THE ACCURACY OF THE TRANSLATION.

2. I MADE BRIEF STATEMENT CONGRATULATING HIM ON BEHALF OF USG ON HIS RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS, SAID THAT IN ONE STROKE HE HAD BROUGHT PORTUGAL INTO THE WESTERN DEMOCRATIC WORLD, THAT US, ALWAYS A FRIEND OF PORTUGAL, LOOKED FORWARD TO EVEN CLOSER TIES WITH HIM AT THE HELM

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AND THAT WE AT THE EMBASSY LOOKED FORWARD TO CLOSE

PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES.

3. AFTER EXPRESSING HIS ADMIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP FOR US AND RECIPROCAL DESIRE FOR CLOSER TIES, HE SAID HE WAS VERY ACTIVELY CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT PORTUGAL WAS ENTERING A NEW ERA. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A COUNTRY TO EXIST IN THE MODERN WORLD REMOVED AND ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD AS PORTUGAL HAS BEEN FOR MANY YEARS, AS HAD BEEN FULLY SET FORTH IN HIS RECENT BOOK. HE SINCERELY HOPES AND BELIEVES THAT THE POLICIES HE INTENDS TO PURSUE WILL MAKE IT MUCH EASIER FOR PORTUGAL'S FRIENDS TO GIVE SUPPORT TO PORTUGAL.

4. I REPLIED THAT HE HAD ALMOST TAKEN THE WORDS OUT OF MY MOUTH. I WAS SURE HE WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH OUR FRIENDSHIP FOR PORTUGAL HAS CREATED FOR US IN OUR OWN CONGRESS, IN THE UN, AND IN OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND THAT WE ANTICIPATED WITH PLEASURE THAT THIS SITUATION WOULD NOW CHANGE.

5. TO SEE IF HE WAS INTERESTED IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION I MENTIONED THE FACT THAT, AS HE PROBABLY ALREADY KNEW, USG HAD APPOINTED AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY TO CONDUCT THE LAJES NEGOTIATIONS. HE OBVIOUSLY HAD NOT EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THE MATTER AND ASKED THE INTERPRETER WHAT NEGOTIATIONS I WAS TALKING ABOUT AND WAS INFORMED THAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE AZORES. HE SAID THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THAT WAS A MERE INCIDENT OR DETAIL AMONG ALL OF THE MATTERS OCCUPYING THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

6. HE THEN MADE AN EXTREMELY FLOWERY AND ENTHUSIASTIC SPEECH ABOUT HIS ANTICIPATION OF THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH THE US EMBASSY AND HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT I CONVEY HIS RESPECTS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. AT THE END OF THIS STATEMENT IT WAS CLEARLY TIME TO GO.

7. ON OUR WAY OUT WE VERIFIED THROUGH BLANCO THAT I WAS THE FIRST AMBASSADOR TO BE RECEIVED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON01728
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740105-0757
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740580/aaaactus.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LISBON 1704
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL BY AMBASSADOR ON GENERAL SPINOLA
TAGS: PFOR, PO, US, (SPINOLA, ANTONIO), (SCOTT, STUART N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005